UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/22095*
21 January 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 17 JANUARY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued on 17 January 1991 by His Excellency Mr. Leonid M. Kravchuk, Chairman of the Supreme Soviet (Parliament) of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

I request that you have the text of the statement circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Guennadi I. OUDOVENKO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Ukrainian SSR to the United Nations

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* Reissued for technical reasons.

Annex

[Original: Russian]

Statement of the Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Mr. Leonid Kravchuk

The events in the Persian Gulf have taken a tragic turn. These events are due to the refusal of the Iraqi Government to put an end to its occupation of Kuwait, as the United Nations demands.

It must be noted that the international community has spared no effort to ensure a peaceful settlement of the crisis that has arisen in the Persian Gulf following Iraq's aggression against a sovereign neighbouring State. That was precisely the purpose of the resolutions adopted by the Security Council.

Despite the many steps - diplomatic, economic and other - taken by the international community in connection with Iraq, and despite the attempts at mediation, particularly the efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to avert the threat of war, all has been in vain.

We wish to emphasize that by systematically pursuing a policy aimed at a peaceful settlement of the conflict and by appealing to all parties to do everything possible to that end, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic was hoping that the Iraqi Government would realize the enormity of the danger to which its policy was leading and would come to reason. That has unfortunately not been the case.

We greatly regret this development. At this time of great tension, we appeal to Iraq to begin without delay to implement the decision of the Security Council on the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait. This would be in the interests, above all, of Iraq and its people, and would be conducive to the speediest possible termination of military action and the restoration of peace and security in the Middle East.

17 January 1991

L. M. Kravchuk